

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NSC-05 SIL-01 LAB-04 H-02 /072 W

----- 004585

R 031255Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2640

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 19563

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA (STRAUSZ-HUPE, ROBERT) FR NATO

SUBJECT: VISIT OF AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE TO PARIS

JUNE 28-30

1. AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE COMPLETED AN EXTREMELY USEFUL AND INTENSIVE ROUND OF MEETINGS WITH FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY AND DEFENSE EXPERTS, AS WELL AS WITH LABOR AND
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YOUTH GROUPS, FROM JUNE 28 THROUGH 30. STRAUZ-HUPE

EXPLAINED TO HIS FRENCH COLLEAGUES THAT, HAVING ARRIVED ONLY THREE MONTHS AGO IN BRUSSELS AS US AMBASSADOR TO NATO, HE WISHED TO USE HIS FIRST VISIT TO FRANCE IN HIS PRESENT CAPACITY AS AN OCCASION TO LEARN FIRST-HAND FRENCH VIEWS ON THE ALLIANCE AND RELATED ISSUES. THIS PURPOSE GAVE STRAUSZ-HUPE AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SEPARATELY WITH WIDE RANGE OF FRENCH OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE GROUPS. ALL THE INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED SHOWED A KEEN INTEREST IN DISCUSSING ALLIANCE AND DEFENSE ISSUES AND APPRECIATED THE TIME AND EFFORT AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE DEVOTED TO HEARING THEM OUT ON THESE ISSUES.

2. IN THE FOREIGN POLICY AREA, AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE MET SUCCESSIVELY WITH PIERRE-BROSSOLETTE (SECRETARY-GENERAL AT ELYSEE), DESTREMAU (STATE SECRETARY AT QUAI), DE LABOULAYE (POLITICAL DIRECTOR, QUAI), PAGNIEZ (DIRECTOR FOR PACTS AND DISARMAMENT, QUAI), THE FRENCH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY, SENIOR STAFF AT THE CENTER FOR FOREIGN POLICY STUDIES, AT THE ATLANTIC INSTITUTE AND SOCIALIST PARTY NATIONAL SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS PONTILLON. DEFENSE CALLS INCLUDED MOD STATE SECRETARY GENERAL BIGEARD, MOD DIPLOMATIC ADVISER HIBON, MOD ARMAMENTS ADVISER DELPECH AND GENERAL GALLOIS. FINALLY, INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH THE TOP UNION LEADERSHIP OF FORCE OUVRIERE, PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE EXPERTS, TWO IMPORTANT YOUTH GROUPS AND MICHEL TATU OF LE MONDE ROUNDED OUT THE THREE VERY FULL DAYS.

3. AMBASSADOR STRAUSZ-HUPE'S CALLS STIMULATED THE MOST COMPLETE AND ARTICULATE EXPOSITION OF FRENCH VIEWS ON DEFENSE QUESTIONS IN RECENT MEMORY. GIVEN THE WIDE RANGE OF INDIVIDUALS AND POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS ENCOUNTERED, IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THESE VIEWS WERE NOT ALWAYS CONSISTENT. IT IS, HOWEVER, AN ACCURATE REFLECTION OF AN ABSENCE OF A DEFINITIVE FRENCH POSITION ON SOME ISSUES AND OF A VARIEGATED FRENCH CLASSE POLITIQUE. PARTICULARLY IN THE AREA OF DEFENSE AND ON FRANCE'S MAIN PREOCCUPATIONS IN THIS AREA: GENERAL MERY'S ARTICLE, DEFENSE BUDGETS, STANDARDIZATION, ETC., FRENCH OPINION IS NEITHER UNIFIED NOR UNEQUIVOCAL. HOWEVER, THE

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NUANCES ARE MORE UNDERSTANDABLE AS A RESULT OF THESE TALKS EARLIER THIS WEEK--AS ARE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE VARIOUS POSITIONS AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN QUESTION. THE DINNER/DEBATE WITH THE YOUNG GAULLISTS WAS INSTRUCTIVE IN THIS SENSE. GAULLIST FEELINGS STILL

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 19563

RUN DEEP ON DEFENSE ISSUES; AND WHILE ITS PARTY MAY HAVE
LOST THE PRESIDENCY TWO YEARS AGO, IT STILL CONSTITUTES
THE LARGEST PARTY BLOC IN THE PARLIAMENT AND CAN AT
TIMES RALLY DISPROPORTIONATE SUPPORT AMONG THE PUBLIC ON
SUCH ISSUES. ALL THESE MEETINGS BROUGHT OUT THE PARTI-
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CULAR FRENCH POINT OF VIEW AND OFTEN SPECIAL SENSITIVITY
ON THESE QUESTIONS.

4. WE FOUND THE FRENCH MORE OPEN THAN USUAL DURING
AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE'S VISIT IN EXPRESSING FRANKLY
THEIR VIEWS AND EVEN DIFFERENCES OF OPINION. THE ATMOS-
PHERE WAS FRIENDLY AND THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ON BOTH SIDES
WERE CANDID. THE INFORMAL, PERSONAL CONTACT OF AMBAS-
SADOR STRAUZ-HUPE IN FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS PUT HIS
FRENCH COLLEAGUES AT EASE AND AT THE SAME TIME MADE THEM
CAREFUL LISTENERS TO AN EXPERT OF SOME 40 YEARS' EXPERI-
ENCE. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH VISITS, CONCENTRATING ON THE
KEY GOV POLICY MAKERS AND OTHER POLITICAL FIGURES, ARE
USEFUL FOR US-FRENCH COMMUNICATIONS AND MINIMIZE THE
RISK OF CRITICAL ELEMENTS PUBLICLY DISTORTING THE MAIN
PURPOSE OF SUCH VISITS. FRANCE HAS NEVER CEASED TO BE
A MEMBER OF THE ALLIANCE AND SHOULD THEREFORE NOT BE
IGNORED IN REGULAR HIGH-LEVEL CONTACT BY SENIOR US OFFI-
CIALS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE GROUNDWORK OF THIS FIRST
STEP BE BUILT UPON IN THE FUTURE IN ORDER TO DEEPEN THE
PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS MADE AND, THROUGH FURTHER DIS-
CUSSION OF AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT, NARROW THE GAPS WHICH
SEPARATE US ON CERTAIN ISSUES.

5. SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS ARE BEING REPORTED SEPAR-
ATELY.
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